

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Since the FCC has continually endorsed Bush Administration policies, at the expense of free speech, I don't expect the FCC to prevent the Sinclair Broadcasting travesty. This is a test of your honesty, integrity and commitment to democracy. Remember: human history suggests that the pendulum swings both ways. To the extent that Republicans destroy democracy now will only, sadly, be equaled by the counter-swing. Please don't make the pendulum swing worse by allowing the Sinclair group to abuse their power and influence.
Thank you.